

IV. THE COMMUNIST PARTY -- NEGRO-FRATERNAL, PROTEST- AND-IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

A. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is unquestionably the most important agency for the Negro people in the United States "in their struggle against caste." It was started on the initiative of a group of white citizens who in 1909 called a conference, supported by both Negroes and whites, to organize a "national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty."

In 1910, this group merged with the Niagara Movement (formed in 1905 by a group of Negroes who urged protest rather than accommodation in an effort to secure equal rights for the Negroes) to form the NAACP with the objective of winning full equality for the Negro as an American citizen.

The national office of the NAACP in New York City supervises the work of approximately 1,355 branches, youth councils, and college chapters located throughout 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska. While the leadership of the NAACP has always been interracial, the majority of its membership, which is largely confined to upper-class